

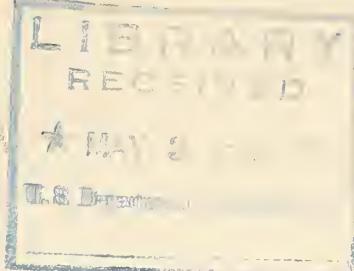
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Feb.-Apr. 1926 not issued. \* May 1 -



THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

May 1, 1926

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\* Have you ever considered seriously the  
\* number of projects you have started since you  
\* began horticultural extension work? It will  
\* prove interesting and probably surprising to  
\* do this. In this issue are the results of a  
\* study of projects as given in county agent re-  
\* ports from three counties in a western State.  
\*

\* You are one of the 89 State horticultur-  
\* al specialists helping to spend \$343,000 allotted  
\* to horticultural extension work in 42 States  
\* this fiscal year. The other 6 States do not  
\* have horticultural extension specialists.  
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Office of Horticultural Investigations  
and Extension Service Cooperating  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D. C.



## How Long Do Projects Live?

We are interested in knowing what projects are longest lived in the counties as reported by the county agents. In a recent study of the county agent reports from a county in a far western fruit State, since the work began in 1917, only one project, fruit tree pruning, has been continued every year. In the first five years there were five county agents and they all did fruit tree pruning. In this time these five agents started 35 lines of work of all kinds - supposedly projects - and besides fruit tree pruning only one, mealy bug control on citrus trees, lived as long as three consecutive years while 8 lived two consecutive years. These 8 are cow testing, judging and feeding hogs and cattle, gumosis control, purple vetch seeding, cover crops, windbreaks, pig clubs and farm accounts. The other 25 were annuals. Out of these 35 projects 17 were horticultural.

The fifth county agent is still on the job and reports 29 projects of all kinds started in the past 4 years. Five of these projects really belong to the home demonstration agent and are mentioned only once. In 1925, 14 of the 20 projects listed were horticultural.

In another county there were listed 53 lines of work which may be called projects, 14 of these being horticultural. The first county agent began work in September, 1917, on 6 lines of work one of which was cow testing. This project has been continued to the present time. In 1918, fruit tree pruning was started and has been continued every year. Irrigation demonstrations have been under way 6 years, rodent control 5 years and pig club work 4 years. The projects continued through 3 successive years are poultry management, vineyard management, farm management, septic tanks, citrus pruning, and citrus topworking. Twenty-two projects were carried but one year, of these 4 were started in 1925 and may be continued longer. There were 5 county agents in this county during the first 6 years of work. Fifteen projects were listed in 1925 and 11 of them are horticultural.

The study of a third county is interesting because in the 9 years since county agent work was started there have been only 2 county agents, but there have been 42 projects, 16 of which were horticultural. No project started the first year was carried to the present time, at least none is so reported. Cow testing and cover crops were started the first year but are reported for only 7 years. Pruning and training grapes, cover crops, and fire protection were started the second year and have been continued each year since. Boys' and girls' club work is reported in 5 of the 9 years. Fruit thinning was carried 4 years. All of the other lines lasted from 1 to 3 years. In 1925, 12 projects were listed and 7 of these are horticultural.



## Annual Reports.

Upon several occasions we have called attention to the different kinds of annual reports sent in by the extension horticulturists. Some reports tell the whole story, others do not. Here is the way Mr. M. D. Armstrong of Washington lists his activities. A glance at this shows just what he has done during the past year:

### A. Orchard Management

#### 1. Soil Management

Counties carrying program . . . . .	4
Number of demonstrations . . . . .	5
Number of orchard tours . . . . .	2
Total number meetings . . . . .	20
Total attendance . . . . .	642
Improved practices adopted . . . . .	424

#### 2. Pruning

Counties carrying program . . . . .	20
Number of method demonstrations . . .	70
Number of result demonstrations . . .	21
Total number of meetings . . . . .	70
Total attendance . . . . .	1247
Improved practices adopted . . . . .	735

#### 3. Grafting

Counties carrying program . . . . .	6
Number of result demonstrations . . .	25
Number of meetings . . . . .	25
Total attendance . . . . .	373

#### 4. Pest Control

Counties carrying program . . . . .	16
Number of demonstrations . . . . .	28
Number of meetings . . . . .	77
Total attendance . . . . .	2709
Improved Practices adopted . . . . .	1074

#### 5. Tree Spacing

Counties doing work . . . . .	5
Number of meetings . . . . .	18
Total attendance . . . . .	680
Improved practices adopted . . . . .	125



## 6. Fruit Harvesting and Handling

Counties carrying program . . . . .	3
Number of meetings . . . . .	14
Total attendance . . . . .	230
Improved practices adopted . . . . .	190

## B. Small Fruit

### 1. Soil Management

Counties carrying program . . . . .	5
Number of Tours . . . . .	3
Number of meetings . . . . .	3
Total attendance . . . . .	60

### 2. Pruning and Training

Counties carrying program . . . . .	5
Number of tours . . . . .	3
Number of meetings . . . . .	6
Total attendance . . . . .	130

### 3. Pest Control

Counties carrying program . . . . .	8
Number of demonstrations . . . . .	8

## C. Potatoes

Number of counties carrying program .	23
Number of method demonstrations . . .	87
No. of result demonstrations completed	287
No. of farms using improved soil	
practices . . . . .	196
No. of farms using improved seed . .	544
No. of farms practicing seed	
selection . . . . .	239
Total No. of farms adopting im-	
proved practices . . . . .	1300
No. of Potato Clubs . . . . .	22
No. of members . . . . .	141

## D. Home Gardens

No. of Method demonstrations . . . . .	61
No. of Result demonstrations . . . . .	34
No. of Garden clubs . . . . .	113
No. of Members . . . . .	1050



## Junior Fruit Clubs and Fruit Judging.

Junior fruit judging has been taken seriously by Prof. B. D. Drain of Massachusetts. He worked up interest in apple judging among the high school boys last fall and arranged for judging contests at the State fair in Brockton in September. Ten teams of 3 boys each took part in this contest. This was part of the 4 H club activities at the fair and was a real event in club and fruit work.

The following account of the movement was prepared by Prof. Drain for the "Extension Horticulturist."

"Livestock and poultry judging have for a number of years been a major activity among 4H clubs. This has given rise to the theory that "young people are more attracted to animals than to plants." Fruit judging when properly managed and presented by men trained in pomology has in 18 months developed in Massachusetts until it is the equal of livestock judging as a club activity. The old theory that animals are more attractive to young people than plants can at least be seriously questioned and in many cases is not true.

For 15 or 20 years the agricultural colleges have been developing a system of fruit judging. This is now fairly well standardized from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains. All 4H club fruit judging rules are based on the standardized collegiate rules. Most States are using about 10 varieties where the college students use 25. Then the substitution clause is usually reduced and the writer prefers a less severe grading system. Uniform report blanks, score cards and printed matter of all kinds are very important with this kind of club work as it reduces confusion.

The work started in various ways in different towns in Massachusetts. If fruit clubs were already organized, they took up fruit judging as a major activity and selected a team for some local contest. Other towns had a high school with an agricultural teacher who cooperated in introducing the work. By far the more common method of introducing fruit judging is to go to the high school in a given town, agree to hold a certain number of fruit judging practices and select a team for a local contest. This can then be followed by the organization of a fruit club with monthly meetings and field projects. These monthly meetings cover various subjects as spraying, pruning, grafting, fruit judging, and the like. The field projects have included renovating grape vines, thinning fruit, and fertilizing fruit. Records are kept and results discussed.

In less than a year, we held a contest having 30 contestants and representing half the State. April 30, we held a contest representing all the counties in this State except one and including about 60 contestants, (each school is limited to 4 contestants and many enter only one.) We feel very enthusiastic about this work and find it developing under both city and urban conditions."



### State Specialists.

Horticultural extension work is done on Smith-Lever or State funds in 42 States by 89 extension specialists. These men are assisted at times by members of the college teaching or station staff. This makes a strong force to carry on the work including of course the landscape projects. The total amount of money allotted by the States for this work during this fiscal year is about \$343,000.

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### The Garden Seed Packet.

Mr. E. M. Page, Horticultural Specialist in Missouri, worked out the plan of a garden seed packet for farm gardens which has merit. He listed the varieties and amounts of seed of each variety of the different vegetables desirable for the average farm garden. These were all to be assembled by the seedsmen into one package called the garden seed packet. The list was sent to seedsmen for bids on lots of 1,000 or more packets. County agents were to arrange with farmers to use these seed packets and send names and addresses of farmers to the seedsman whose bid was accepted. The packets were to be mailed direct to the farmers. The first four county agents told of this plan were enthusiastic over it and said they could use about 1,000 packets.

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Spraying Grapes in Arkansas. Ext. Cir. 212. Oct. 1925.

Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs

Growing Early Plants for Home and Commercial Gardeners. Bul. 91, Nov. 1925.

Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan

Hot Formaldehyde Treatment for Seed Potatoes - Leaflet

Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst

The Country School Grounds. Ext. Leaflet No. 83

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New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca

Leaflets - Apple Schedule; Peach Schedule, Peach Leaf Curl; Plum Spray Schedule; Cherry Schedule; Yellow Leaf of Cherry Trees; Grape Spray Schedule for Chautauqua Region; Grape Spray Schedule for Finger Lake Region; Black Rot and Black Leg of Cabbage; Celery Blight; The Control of Potato Scab by Acidifying the Soil; Cucurbit Diseases; Determining the Strength of Corrosive Sublimate Solution.



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How to Grow Muskmelons. Ext. Leaflet No. 96.  
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How to Grow Spinach. Ext. Leaflet No. 99  
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Ohio State University - Columbus  
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Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis  
Orchard Spray Program for Oregon. Ext. Bul. 388, Feb. 1926.  
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Vegetable Gardening. Bul. 72, Feb. 1926.  
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Tennessee College of Agriculture, Knoxville

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Wisconsin - University of - Madison

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Arkansas - University of (Extension Service) Little Rock

Shipping Irish Potatoes Cooperatively. Ext. Cir. 217, Mch. 1926.

Connecticut Agricultural College, Storrs

A study of Waterbury's Vegetable Supply. Bul. 86, July, 1925.

Making Money from Potatoes. Bul. No. 95, March, 1926.

Peach Schedule.

Illinois - University of - Urbana

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Michigan State College - East Lansing

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Plant-Growing and Plant-Growing Structures. Ext. Bul. 51, Mch. 1926.

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Wisconsin - University of - Madison

Inoculated Seed Increases Yield and Quality of Legumes. Cir. 194, Feb. 1926.

Growing Sweet Corn. Cir. 196, March, 1926.

Orchard Spray Rings.

Mr. C. L. Kuehner has been pushing orchard spray ring work in Wisconsin. He reports 119 of these rings with about 1100 members. In 100 of them the power sprayer is owned cooperatively and is run by a hired operator. In the other 19 rings the sprayer is owned by one member who sprays for the others. Commercial sprayers report more than 600 other farm orchards sprayed. Thus nearly 2,000 farm orchards are receiving good spraying treatment.

Some of the results of farm orchard spraying are worth recording. In two apple orchards the crop for 10 years previous to being sprayed brought only 25 to 30 cents per bushel. The first year of spraying the early apples brought from \$1.75 to \$2.00 per bushel and the winter apples \$2.00 to \$2.50 per bushel. In 1921, one orchard of 35 apple trees, formerly unprofitable, was thoroughly sprayed and produced \$122.15 worth of fruit. In 1922, the orchard was not sprayed and the crop was worth \$47.25. Thorough spraying in 1923 increased the crop value to \$240.77. The orchard was sprayed in 1924 and produced a crop worth \$265.67. Another orchard formerly unprofitable has this crop value record: In 1922, \$500.00; in 1923, \$1000.00; in 1924, \$750.

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